



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter Eldridge, or Peter.Eldridge@noaa.gov
727/570-5305, FAX 727/570-5583
<http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 22, 2002
NR02-010

SOUTH ATLANTIC SEASONAL CLOSURE AND POSSESSION LIMITS

Red Porgy

During January, February, March and April each year, the harvest or possession of red porgy in or from the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on board a vessel with a Federal snapper-grouper permit (charter/headboat or commercial) is limited to one per person per day or one per person per trip, whichever is more restrictive. Also, red porgy can neither be sold nor purchased during the closed season. The minimum size limit for red porgy is 14 inches total length.

Black Grouper and Gag

During March and April each year, the possession of black grouper and gag in or from the South Atlantic EEZ on board a vessel with a Federal snapper-grouper permit (charter/headboat or commercial) is limited to two black grouper or gag, combined, per person per day or two per person per trip, whichever is more restrictive. Also, black grouper and gag cannot be purchased or sold during the closed season. The minimum size limit for black grouper and gag is 24 inches total length.

Amberjack

During April each year, the possession of greater amberjack in or from the South Atlantic EEZ on board a vessel with a Federal snapper-grouper permit (charter/headboat or commercial) is limited to one per person per day or one per person per trip, whichever is more restrictive.

Also, greater amberjack can neither be sold nor purchased during the closed season. The recreational minimum size limit for greater amberjack is 28 inches fork length; the commercial size limit is 36 inches fork length.

Mutton Snapper

During May and June each year, the possession of mutton snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ on vessels with a commercial snapper-grouper permit is limited to 10 per person per day or 10 per person per trip, whichever is more restrictive. The minimum size limit for mutton snapper is 16 inches total length.

Cobia

No person may possess more than two cobia per day in or from the Gulf, Mid-Atlantic, or South Atlantic EEZ, regardless of the number of trips or duration of a trip.

The prohibitions listed above on sale/purchase do not apply to fish that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold **prior** to the start of the seasonal closure and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor. The trip restrictions apply to all federally permitted vessels regardless of where harvested.

The NMFS is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.